would enable the Haj Pilgrims to catch the direct flights from Rajasthan instead of travelling to other cities for that purpose;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action contemplated by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has requested this Ministry to start Haj flights from Jaipur Airport to Jeddah.

(c) Starting a new point is a policy decision which is taken only after due consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and Central Haj Committee keeping in view the costs involved and facilities available at the airport.

Decline in domestic passenger traffic in 2003

2647. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)whether the domestic airlines have to face a difficult situation in 2003 due to high operational costs and poor growth in number of passengers;

(b)if so, whether Government ahve drawn-up/proposed to draw-up a contingency plan to deal with the situation and ensure a viable domestic airlines running to full passenger capacity; and

(c)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Domestic airlines are facing a difficult situation due to increase in various input costs, which *inter alia* include Aviation Turbine Fuell (ATF), aircraft maintenance, insurance, security expenditure etc. There has been a marginal growth in the number of passengers in the first two months of the year 2003, as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(b) and (c) While no contingency plan has been drawn up by Government, it is the constant endeavour of Government to encourage domestic airlines to achieve their full potential and increase their viability.

Drill in case of terrorist attack

2648. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Team set up, after terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York on 11 th September, 2001, comprising representatives from various Ministries to deal with such an exigency, is yet to be given a go ahead for formalisation of a drill to be followed in such cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the drill is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Task Force was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri H.S. Khola, former DGCA, which consisted of representatives from Indian Air Force and Airports Authority of India. The Task Force has since submitted its report and its recommendations are in various stages of implementation.

Loss suffered by AI

2649. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "AI losses Rs. 2 crore in a day due to London mess-up" which appeared in a newspaper on January 30th, 2003 Mumbai Edition;

(b) whether any inquiry has been ordered regarding the loss incurred by Air India; and